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CALIFORNIA DESERT PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

(Fiscal Year 1983)

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SUMMARY
DESERT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Programmed for 83</u>	<u>Remaining</u>	<u>Total Desert Plan</u>	<u>% Complete</u>
*ACECs	28	7	42	77	36%
*Habitat Mgt. Plans	13	6	39	58	22
*Allotment Mgt. Plans	13	19	41	60	22
Herd Mgt. Plan (Burros)	0	3	2	5	0
Burro Removal	5000	1200	3800	10,000	50
Route Approval Maps	3	5	16	21	14
*Wilderness Reports	12	20	13	45	27
GEM (Geology, Energy, Minerals) Resource Area Reports	41	0	34	75	56

*Includes areas in Eastern San Diego County and not included in the 1980 California Desert Plan.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Category	Estimated for 83	Remaining	Total	Comments
Wages	28	7	35	
Materials (incl. 8/80)	13	6	19	
Subcontract (incl. 8/80)	13	18	31	
Travel (incl. 8/80) (8/80)	0	3	3	
Auto Rental	2000	1000	3000	
Office Supplies	3	2	5	
Telephone Expense	12	12	24	
Gen. (Electric, Water, etc.)	41	0	41	

*Excludes items in Eastern San Diego County and not included in the 1980 California Budget Plan.

INTRODUCTION

The California Desert Plan, mandated by Congress under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, was approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior on December 17, 1980. Also, on April 16, 1981, Secretary Watt stated his approval for implementing the Desert Plan. It provides guidance to BLM and the public for the management, use, and protection of more than 12 million acres of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

By itself, the Desert Plan will not protect a single resource in the California Desert, nor will it produce a single barrel of oil or pound of beef. The Desert Plan provides broad direction for managing publicly owned resources during the remainder of this century.

This strategy document is a response to public concern about Desert Plan implementation. Some people have doubted BLM's capabilities for implementation. This report will explain actions which are budgeted and which will be accomplished this year and identifies what has been accomplished to date.

A major step in the implementation of the Desert Plan has been the reorganization of BLM in southern California. A new California Desert District, headquartered in Riverside, has been established. The primary purpose of the Desert District Office is to support the five Resource Area Offices as they implement the Desert Plan. Staff positions representing various resource skills have been relocated to the five Resource Area Offices so that they, and not the District Office, now have the primary responsibility for accomplishing specific tasks identified in the Desert Plan. The five Resource Areas are listed below:

<u>Resource Area</u>	<u>Office Location</u>	<u>Approximate Geographic Responsibility</u>
Ridgecrest	Ridgecrest	Northwestern desert
Barstow	Barstow	Western San Bernardino and Eastern Inyo Counties
Needles	Needles	Eastern San Bernardino County
Indio	Riverside	Riverside County
El Centro	El Centro	Imperial and Eastern San Diego Counties

INTRODUCTION

The California Desert Plan, mandated by Congress under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, was approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior on December 17, 1980. Also, on April 16, 1981, Secretary Watt issued his approval for implementing the Desert Plan. It provides guidance to BLM and the public for the management, use, and protection of more than 12 million acres of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

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Resource Area	Office Location	Approximate Geographic Region
Barstow	Barstow	Barstow San Bernardino and Eastern Inyo Counties
Beaumont	Beaumont	Eastern San Bernardino County
Indio	Indio	Riverside County
El Centro	El Centro	Imperial and Eastern San Diego Counties

Public Lands in the California Desert, however, do not belong to BLM. They belong to you, the citizens of this country. Accordingly, it is the public which must share responsibility for Desert Plan implementation. This includes organized user groups, local, state, and other Federal agencies, and individual citizens. BLM will continue to work with and encourage special interest groups and individuals who wish to volunteer their knowledge or service in the management of their public resources.

A Desert District Advisory Council, comprised of 15 citizens representing various interests, was formed on October 21, 1981. A Grazing District Board was also formed to provide specific input to the District Manager with respect to range land management. In addition, an Inter-Governmental Coordinating Committee was formed. These groups give advice to the District Manager in managing the desert.

This implementation strategy is only specific for fiscal year 1983. As budgets are approved by Congress annually, this document will be updated and distributed to interested persons.

Public lands in the California Desert, however, do not belong to BLM. They belong to you. The citizens of this country. Accordingly, it is the public which must share responsibility for desert BLM management. This includes organized user groups, local, state, and other Federal agencies, and individuals. BLM will continue to work with and encourage special interest groups and individuals who wish to volunteer their knowledge or services in the management of their public resources.

A Desert District Advisory Council, composed of 15 citizens representing various interests, was formed on October 21, 1983. A District Advisory Board was also formed to provide specific input to the District Manager with regard to range land management. In addition, an Inter-Departmental Advisory Committee was formed. These groups give advice to the District Manager in managing the desert.

This management strategy is only specific for fiscal year 1983. As budgets are approved by Congress annually, this document will be updated and distributed to interested persons.

PRIORITIES

Long Range

The Desert Plan was developed as a guide for management of the California Desert over the next 20 years. Implementation of the plan covers two distinct types of management activities: (1) general guidelines, budget commitments and activity plans, and (2) specific on-the-ground management activities which are being developed to fulfill the management requirements of the Final Plan/EIS.

Within the constraints of the annual budget, BLM has established priorities for implementing the Plan. These priorities were developed as part of the planning process and are designed to address legal mandates, National priorities and policies, public needs, and critical needs for management action. These factors contributed to the identification of the following long range (10-year) priorities in the final Plan, which are not in any priority order.

- Development of interpretive materials and education programs
- Completion of Native American coordination procedures
- Removal of excess wild burros
- Dispose of isolated and scattered land parcels through exchange, sales or by meeting the needs of local governments through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act
- Leasing and development of energy resources, including wind, and opening public lands for development
- ACEC protection and management
- Mineral surface management
- Vehicle route approval
- Preparation and implementation of the critical activity plans for recreation, cultural resources, wildlife, livestock and wild horses and burros
- Development and implementation of monitoring programs
- Protection of endangered wildlife and vegetation
- Implementation of grazing decisions
- Initiation of major land tenure adjustments
- Preparation of wilderness study reports
- ORV management and special recreation permits
- Visitor Services including: Visitor assistance, visitor information, and interpretation and visitor protection

The implementation of the plan will be reviewed on an annual basis. The annual review will provide an opportunity to review the implementation priorities, public input and response, and to incorporate new and emerging resource data into management actions for the California Desert.

The Forest Plan was developed as a guide for management of the California Forest over the next 20 years. The structure of the plan covers two distinct types of management activities: (1) general guidelines, budget commitments and activity plans, and (2) specific on-the-ground management activities which are being developed to fulfill the management requirements of the final Plan.

Within the context of the annual budget, RM has established priorities for implementing the Plan. These priorities were developed as part of the planning process and are designed to address legal mandates, national priorities and policies, public needs, and critical needs for management action. These factors are listed in the following table (10-year) and are not in any priority order.

Development of interpretive materials and education programs

Development of Native American consultation procedures

Removal of excess wild horses

Disposal of isolated and scattered land parcels through exchange, sales or by meeting the needs of local government through the National and Public Properties Act

Research and development of energy resources, including wind, and opening public lands for development

Wild protection and management

National natural resources

Wildlife conservation

Investigation and implementation of the critical activity plan for conservation, cultural resources, wildlife, livestock and wild horses and burros

Development and implementation of monitoring programs

Protection of endangered wildlife and vegetation

Implementation of grazing decisions

Initiation of major land use decisions

Preparation of wilderness study reports

RM management and special recreation permits

Visitor Services including Visitor Assistance, Visitor Information, and Interpretation and visitor protection

The implementation of the plan will be reviewed on an annual basis. The annual review will provide an opportunity to review the implementation activities, public input and response, and to incorporate new and emerging resources into management actions for the California Forest.

FY83 Program Emphasis

Current work programs call for greater emphasis this year on substantially reducing the backlog of case work and implementing activity plans including ACECs, Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) and Habitat Management Plans (HMPs). This means fencing, installing signs, developing water sources for cattle and wildlife, removing exotic vegetation from important springs and creeks, and continuing to remove burros from sensitive areas.

During FY83, emphasis will also be placed on improving relations with users of the public lands including mining and energy interests, ranchers, and recreationists. Greater effort will be directed toward educating and assisting the public in the pursuit of their interests within the framework of the Desert Plan.

The FY83 annual work plan for the California Desert District is designed to accomplish the following priorities:

1. Energy Leasing - maintain "zero" backlog of oil/gas and geothermal leases.
2. Mining Plans of Operation - continue to process plans of operation under the provisions of CFR 3802/3809 within the required time frame.
3. Realty Case Work - reduce the backlog of cases including non-energy leases, rights-of-way, use permits, land exchanges and sales.
4. Asset Management - prepare a five year plan for the sale of those public lands which meet the criteria for disposal under the Bureau's Asset Management Program.
5. Increase Implementation on the Ground - implement ACEC, HMPs and AMPs.
6. Route Designation - continue to designate routes of travel in sensitive areas.
7. Complete "82" Plan Amendments
8. Escondido Project - complete transfer of residual public land within western San Diego and Riverside counties outside of the CDCA to the US Forest Service after consideration of R&PP applications and other disposal options.
9. Monitor Existing Plans - determine management effectiveness.
10. Complete ACEC Plans - for the New York Mountains, Clark Mountain, Chuckwalla Bench, Soda Springs, San Sebastian Marsh, Amargosa River area.
11. Continue Implementation of the East Mojave Scenic Area with emphasis on increasing interpretation.
12. Interpretive Materials - publish brochures, maps, guides and other material for dissemination to the public through the Districts' mobile contact trailers.

1983 Program Summary

Current work programs call for greater emphasis this year on substantially reducing the backlog of case work and implementing activity plans including: (1) Accelerated Management Plans (AMPs) and Habitat Management Plans (HMPs); (2) this means looking, installing signs, developing water systems for cattle and wildlife, removing exotic vegetation from riparian springs and creeks and continuing to remove barriers from sensitive areas.

During 1983, emphasis will also be placed on improving relations with users of the public lands including mining and energy interests, ranchers, and recreationists. Greater effort will be directed toward educating and assisting the public in the benefits of their interests within the framework of the BLM's plan.

The 1983 annual work plan for the California Desert District is designed to accomplish the following priorities:

1. Energy Planning - maintain "zero" backlog of oil/gas and geothermal leases.
2. Mining Plans of Operation - continue to review plans of operation under the provisions of the 1970 Mining Law to ensure the required time frame.
3. Realty Case Work - reduce the backlog of cases including non-energy leases, rights-of-way, easements, land exchanges and sales.
4. Asset Management - prepare a five year plan for the sale of those public lands which need the criteria for disposal under the Bureau's Asset Management Program.
5. Resource Implementation on the Ground - implement ACEC, HPS and WMA.
6. Public Participation - continue to develop system of travel in sensitive areas.
7. Complete "B" Plan Implementations
8. Reclamation Projects - complete transfer of residual public land within federal San Diego and Riverside counties outside of the CDD to the US Forest Service after consultation of BHP applicants and other disposal actions.
9. Reactor Exclusion Plans - determine management effectiveness.
10. Complete ACEC Plans - for the New York Mountains, Clark Mountains, Chukwalla, Bannock, Soda Springs, San Jacinto Mountains, Annapolis River area.
11. Continue Implementation of the East Mojave Desert Area with emphasis on increasing cooperation.
12. Interpretive Materials - publish brochures, maps, guides and other material for dissemination to the public through the District's mobile contact trailers.

PROBLEMS AND REMEDIES

Funding

Because of the constraints of the budgetary process and the need to move toward reduced spending as a result of the limited financial resources available, the Desert Plan will require the use of alternative measures designed to accomplish the goals set by the Congress. Among the processes which will be utilized in this effort will be the streamlining of programs and policies to the point where budgetary considerations will be less important. A second, and vital aspect of the effort will be the expanded use of volunteers who are willing and able to provide expertise, advice and physical energies toward assuming an ever larger part of the Desert Plan operation.

The Plan provides a framework for management decisions with the ability to establish priorities for the protection of sensitive resources. The staff is committed to preparing detailed plans for the critical areas and is moving ahead toward implementation albeit at a reduced level. More efficient means of accomplishing plan objectives and programs are being employed where possible.

Volunteers are being sought to augment staff and are found to be most effective in assisting on-the-ground projects e.g., construction of facilities, monitoring and collecting data. Efforts have been made to obtain assistance from other agencies and to tap other sources of funding, including: Energy and Resource Fund (ERF) and County Fish and Game funds which provide monies for wildlife improvements; and California Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) funds for recreation improvements.

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Volunteers are being sought to augment staff and are found to be most effective in assisting on on-going projects e.g., construction of facilities, monitoring and collecting data. Efforts have been made to obtain assistance from other agencies and to cap other sources of funding, including: Energy and Resource Fund (ERF) and Grand Park and Lake funds which provide monies for wildlife improvement, and California Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) funds for restoration improvement.

Litigation

The California Desert Plan has been challenged in federal court by a number of organizations including American Motorcycle Association, National Outdoor Coalition and Inyo County. Plaintiffs alleged that the Bureau did not follow federal regulations in developing the Plan and therefore the Plan is illegal and should be enjoined from further implementation by the District. The preliminary injunction was denied. Plaintiffs have subsequently filed an appeal in the federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In another case a number of conservation organizations including the California Native Plant Society and the Sierra Club filed in federal court to enjoin the Bureau from proceeding with the route approval process as set forth in the Desert Plan. Plaintiffs alleged that provisions for route designation outlined in the Plan are inconsistent with federal regulations governing designation of "open", "closed" and "limited" areas for motorized vehicle use. Specifically they claim that criteria for route designation in Class L must conform with 43 CFR 8342.1. In response to the allegations, the Bureau pointed out that the criteria in 43 CFR 8342.1 would be considered in all Class L designations and that the criteria in the Plan is consistent with the regulations. The court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and an injunction was issued. The District has since amended the Motorized Vehicle Element of the Desert Plan to clarify route approval process in Class L area and revised procedures for analyzing each route with respect to environmental impacts.

Plan Amendments

Two years have now passed since the plan was adopted by the Secretary. During this time, many decisions have been made within the framework provided by this document. District staff has been interpreting and learning to manage the land within the constraints imposed by the multiple use classes. Errors and inconsistencies have been noted and changed. Unmanagable conditions such as misalignment of multiple use class boundaries have been corrected through the amendment process. This has been essentially a "shake down" period in which the overall structure and concepts on which the plan was formulated has proven to be sound and capable of providing the District with the level of guidance envisioned in FLPMA.

Minor changes and corrections have been managed through a set of procedures for handling modifications. Other changes to the Plan require more indepth analyses and public review through formalized amendment procedures. Because of the time required to prepare environmental assessments and for public review, amendments are cycled through the procedures once a year. A call is put out for amendment proposals during the first quarter of the calendar year. The public as well as staff is encouraged to identify needed changes to the Plan. These candidate amendments must be based on new information not considered in finalizing the 1980 Desert Plan.

The California Desert Plan has been challenged in federal court by a number of organizations including American Motorcyclist Association, National Outdoors Coalition and Iron County. Plaintiffs alleged that the Bureau did not follow Federal regulations in developing the Plan and therefore the Plan is illegal and should be enjoined from further implementation by the District. The government's information was denied. Plaintiffs have subsequently filed an appeal in the Federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In another case a number of conservation organizations including the California Native Plant Society and the Sierra Club filed in federal court to enjoin the Bureau from proceeding with the route approval process as set forth in the Desert Plan. Plaintiffs alleged that provisions for route designations contained in the plan are inconsistent with Federal regulations governing designation of "open", "closed", and "limited" areas for motorized vehicles use. Specifically they claim that criteria for route designation in Class I areas conflict with the criteria in 36 CFR 336.1 would be consistent in all Class I designations and that the criteria in the plan is consistent with the regulations. The court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and an injunction was issued. The District has since modified the motorized vehicle element of the Desert Plan to comply with route approval process in Class I areas and revised provisions for analyzing such route with respect to environmental impacts.

Plan Implementation

Two years have now passed since the plan was adopted by the Secretary. During this time, many decisions have been made within the framework provided by this document. District staff has been interpreting and learning to manage the land within the constraints imposed by the multiple use classes. Errors and inconsistencies have been noted and changed. Management conditions such as allocation of multiple use class boundaries have been corrected through the management process. This has been essentially a "start over" period in which the overall structure and concepts on which the plan was formulated are proven to be sound and capable of providing the District with the level of guidance envisioned in FPMR.

Minor changes and corrections have been managed through a set of procedures for handling modifications. Other changes to the plan require more formal analysis and public review through formalized amendment procedures. Because of the time required to prepare environmental assessments and for public review, amendments are spaced through the procedure over a year. A call is put out for amendment proposals during the first quarter of the calendar year. The public as well as staff is encouraged to identify needed changes to the plan. These amendments must be based on new information not considered in formulating the 1980 Desert Plan.

The FY81 amendments included 24 changes to the Desert Plan. These changes to both text and area designations provided a good test of the amendment process and format for assessing environmental impacts.

The FY82 amendment cycle currently in progress, is a much larger effort and requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). During the three month period from mid-February to mid-May, 1982, about 130 amendment proposals were received from the public and from BLM staff. These proposals were screened by both the District Advisory Council and management. A total of 49 candidates were accepted for further consideration in the draft EIS. The remaining recommended changes were either rejected, deferred to a future time for consideration, or handled through the informal administrative process for modifications and corrections to the Plan. The draft EIS was submitted to the public for a 90-day review and comment period. During this period a number of public hearings were convened to accept testimony. A number of the proposals are highly controversial and have generated a lot of public comment which will be addressed in the Final EIS. The 82 amendment process will continue through April, 1983 at which time decisions will become final.

Through the amendment process, the plan is proving capable of meeting the challenge of new policy direction and changes in management emphasis.

The 1981 amendments included 14 changes to the Permit Plan. These changes to both text and map designations provided a good test of the amendment process and formed the necessary environmental impacts.

The 1982 amendment cycle currently in progress, is a much larger effort and requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). During the three month period from mid-February to mid-May, 1982, about 130 amendment proposals were received from the public and from BLM staff. These proposals were reviewed by both the District Advisory Council and management. A total of 45 amendments were accepted for further consideration in the final EIS. The remaining recommended changes were either rejected, deferred to a future time for consideration, or handled through the informal administrative process for modifications and corrections to the Plan. The final EIS was submitted to the public for a 90-day review and comment period. During this period a number of public hearings were conducted to accept testimony. A number of the proposals are highly controversial and have generated a lot of public comment which will be addressed in the final EIS. The 82 amendment process will continue through April, 1982 at which time decisions will become final.

Through the amendment process, the plan is proving capable of meeting the challenge of new policy direction and changes in management objectives.

SPECIFIC PROGRAMS - ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TARGETS FOR FY 83

A. CULTURAL RESOURCE ELEMENT

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

Protection and preservation of cultural resources will be achieved through a variety of management tools. These include management plans for Cultural Resources and other values, stabilization, surveillance, vehicle route designation, and environmental education/awareness. A Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement has been developed with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation which establishes a structure and guidance for the systematic management of Cultural Resources within the CDD. Specific implementation actions include:

- The formal nomination or eligibility determinations for potential National Registration of Historic Places properties.
- Cultural resources management will be included wherever appropriate and feasible in other activity plans (e.g., Wilderness Management Plans, Recreation Management Plans).
- Cultural Resources Management Plans or mitigation plans will be completed on sensitive/significant Cultural Resources on a priority basis based on the potential for adverse impacts to Cultural Resources, or the likelihood of successful protection/preservation.
- Monitoring of Cultural Resource site integrity will be immediately implemented and expanded in the developing implementation of the plan on a priority basis.
- Cultural resources inventory will continue on an annual basis to increasingly supplement the Desert Plan Data Base.
- Physical protection of cultural properties will be immediately implemented. Sites will be identified for protection on a priority basis.
- Scientific research and analysis of desert Cultural Resources will be coordinated particularly in areas of high impact potential.
- Public education and interpretive programs will be developed for various types of Cultural Resources throughout the Desert.

CULTURAL RESOURCE ELEMENT

Actions Identified in the Plan

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 - The formal evaluation or eligibility determination for potential National Registration of Historic Places properties.
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 - Monitoring of Cultural Resources site integrity will be immediately implemented and expanded in the developing implementation of the plan on a priority basis.
 - Cultural resources inventory will continue on an annual basis to increasingly supplement the Desert Plan data base.
 - Formal protection of cultural properties will be immediately implemented. Sites will be identified for protection on a priority basis.
 - Scientific research and analysis of desert Cultural Resources will be conducted particularly in areas of high impact potential.
 - Public education and interpretive programs will be developed for various types of Cultural Resources throughout the desert.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

- ACEC Plan Completed:

- . Corn Springs
- . Yuha Basin
- *. Mule Mountains
- . El Paso Mountains
- . Squaw Spring
- . Palen Dry Lake
- . Denning Springs
- . Salt Creek
- . Last Chance Canyon
- . Steam Well
- *. Piute Creek
- . Mopah Springs
- . Pilot Knob

* Those ACEC reiving substantial implementation during FY 1983

- National Register 21 sites nominated; 5 sites became offically_listed:
(McCoy Springs Petroglyplis; Aikens Wash National Register District; Rodman
Mountains National Register District; Yuha Basin National Register District;
sites--SBr - 1008a,b,c).

3. FY 1983 Targets

ACEC Plans -

- . Crucero
- . Dead Mountains
- . Amargosa Canyon
- . Soda Springs
- . Lake Cahuilla (4 acres will be combined into one plan)

National Register nominations 7

1. Actual Accomplishments to Date

- AEC Plan Completed:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| . Cold Springs | . Salt Creek |
| . John Wells | . Lost Chimney Canyon |
| . White Mountains | . Steam Well |
| . El Paso Mountains | . State Creek |
| . Steam Springs | . Hoback Springs |
| . Tule River Lake | . Pilot Knob |
| . Denning Springs | |

* These AEC related underground investigations during IV 1982

- National Register is under construction; 5 sites under official listing:
(McGee, Fort Valley, Alabama Wash National Register, Redman
Horseback National Register, Yule Valley National Register, Redman
State - 501 - 10000, p. 5).

2. IV 1982 Targets

- AEC Plan:

- . Grants
- . Road Stations
- . Antelope Canyon
- . Soda Springs

* Lake Canby is under will be completed into one plan.

National Register nominations 1

B. NATIVE AMERICAN ELEMENT

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

Priorities for implementation of the Native American Element are directed toward the protection of the most critical and threatened resources of Native American value. Such areas would include the ACECs and areas of extensive, diverse and sensitive cultural values. The proposed wilderness areas are also being evaluated in conjunction with the appropriate Native American group(s) to identify potential impacts.

Additional activities include:

- The development of site specific management and protection guidelines for areas of Native American Values beginning with ACECs.
- Finalization of Tribal coordination and contact procedures.
- Public education and awareness programs to be developed in conjunction with Desert Native American groups.
- Refinement of research and information exchange programs between the CDD and Desert Tribal groups.

2. Accomplishments to Date

- ACEC Plans completed: Jawbone/Butterbread and Whitewater Canyon
- A precedence for tribal coordination is being implemented. Each resource area office maintains a list of contacts among the tribes and makes the necessary contacts on a case by case basis. The District does not have a Native American Coordinator and therefore depends on the BLM State Office for special assistance on highly sensitive issues.

3. FY 83 Targets

- ACEC Plans - Dead Mountains
- Continue to coordinate with Native American tribes on specific activities and cases which may affect tribal lands or other public lands which contain Native American values.

NATIVE AMERICAN ELEMENT

Actions Identified in the Plan

Priority for implementation of the Native American Element are directed toward the protection of the most critical and threatened resources of Native American value. Such areas include the ACECs and areas of extensive, diverse and sensitive cultural values. The proposed wilderness areas are also being evaluated in consultation with the appropriate Native American groups to identify potential impacts.

Additional activities include:

- The development of site specific management and protection guidelines for areas of Native American Values beginning with ACECs.
- Finalization of Tribal coordination and contact procedures.
- Public education and awareness programs to be developed in cooperation with Native American groups.
- Refinement of research and information exchange programs between the BIP and Native Tribal groups.

Accomplishments to Date

- NEPC Plans completed: Jackson/Butterfield and Whiteclay Canyon.
- A procedure for Tribal coordination is being implemented. Each resource area office maintains a list of contacts among the Tribes and makes the necessary contacts on a case by case basis. The District does not have a Native American Coordinator and therefore depends on the BLM State Office for special assistance on highly sensitive issues.

1. IT 57 Targets

- NEPC Plans - Best Information
- Guidelines to coordinate with Native American Tribes on specific activities and issues which may affect Tribal lands or other public lands which contain Native American values.

C. WILDLIFE ELEMENT

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

The Wildlife Element identifies 89 special fish and wildlife areas that will receive active habitat management and/or special attention in the environmental process. Twenty-eight of these areas have been identified as ACECs solely or partially to protect fish and wildlife resources. Fifty-eight of these areas will have Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) written. Five HMPs and two ACEC plans were prepared during or prior to FY81. Of the 58 HMP areas, 15 overlap with ACECs. Three areas are to be designated as Research Natural Areas.

The highest priority will be given to the critical habitat of Federally-listed threatened and endangered species. HMPs for critical habitat are to be completed within three years of final Plan approval. HMPs for State-listed species will be completed within two years after the completion of inventories, which will be completed within three years of Desert Plan approval. The Desert Plan states that of the 45 HMPs not yet written, 7 are to be written within 1-2 years, 28 within 2-5 years, 8 within 5-7 years, and 2 within 7-10 years.

Various studies and inventories will be conducted to monitor program effectiveness, to direct Plan implementation priorities, and to provide the basic information for HMP and ACEC plan objectives.

2. FY 82 Actual Accomplishments

- ACEC Plans Completed:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| . Yuha Basin | . Salt Creek Hills |
| . Corn Springs | . Harper Dry Lake |
| *. Jawbone/Butterbread | *. Piute Creek |
| *. Saline Valley | . Big Morongo |
| *. Darwin Falls | . Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket |
| *. Surprise Canyon | *. Salt Creek - pupfish |
| *. Eureka Valley Dunes | *. Southern East Mesa |

- Habitat Management Plans (HMPs)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| . Fort Soda/Mojave Chub | *. Saline Marsh |
| . Desert Tortoise Natural Area | *. Eureka Dunes |
| . Santa Rosa Mountains | *. West Panamint Mountains |
| . Monache Deer Herd | *. Piute Creek |
| *. East Mesa | *. Whipple Mountains |
| *. Sierra/Mojave/Tehachapi | . Yuha Desert |

* Major implementation beginning in FY 83

3. FY 83 Targets

During this year, the emphasis will shift from massive completion of ACECs and HMPs to implementation of those plans completed to date (see those plans with * under number 2 above). The following plans will, however, be completed during FY 1983:

ACEC Plans:

- . New York Mountains
- . Clark Mountains
- . Amargosa River
- . Grimshaw Lake
- . Chuckwalla Bench

Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) not included in ACECs:

- . Shoshone Cave Whip-Scorpion
- . Orocopia Mountains

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

The following completed ACEC plans include vegetative resource objectives:

- . Kern Springs
- . Salt Creek Hills
- . Lake Basin
- . Surprise Canyon
- . Grand Valley Basin

The following ACEC plans have been prepared specifically to protect vegetation:

- . Big Dry Lake Concrete Dams
- . Upper Grand Valley Flood Dams
- . Grand Valley Dam (formerly known as Big Dry Lake)

3. FY 83 Targets

Emphasis will be placed on completion of those plans which have been prepared specifically to protect vegetation.

The following ACEC plans will be completed this year which are concerned with protection of vegetation:

- . Amargosa River
- . Grimshaw Lake

During this year, the emphasis will shift from massive completion of AECOs and
to implementation of those plans completed to date (see those plans with
under number 2 above). The following plans will, however, be completed during
FY 1987:

AEC Plans:

- . New York Mountains
- . Clark Mountains
- . Amazon River
- . Orinoco Lake
- . Orinoco River

Watershed Management Plans (WMPs) not included in AECs:

- . Amazon River
- . Orinoco Mountains

D. VEGETATION ELEMENT

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

The majority of actions specified in conjunction with the Vegetation Element will focus upon monitoring and supplemental inventory. Monitoring efforts will be directed to those areas with the greatest management need. Criteria include the presence of vegetation or a species of high value or sensitivity and the type and intensity of impact. Also, actions that modify vegetation structure or composition will be monitored. These actions include, but are not limited to, grazing leases, ORV competitive events and open areas, the construction of utility corridors, and mining or mineral development.

Additional inventory requirements have been identified. The need for vegetation inventories in determining forage availability for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses and burros is obvious. Inventory efforts are also necessary to determine the distribution and status of rare, threatened, and endangered plants and unusual plant assemblages.

Nine ACECs have been designated that are partially or entirely based on vegetative resources values. In addition, one Research Natural Area (Western Mojave Saltbush) is planned.

There is a need for an analysis -- on an area by area basis -- to determine the number of plants and/or parts which may be harvested in a given area without deleterious effects on the species and ecosystem in question.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

The following completed ACEC plans include vegetative resource objectives:

- . Corn Springs
- . Salt Creek Hills
- . Yuha Basin
- . Surprise Canyon
- . Eureka Valley Dunes

The following ACEC plans have been prepared specifically to protect vegetation:

- . Soggy Dry Lake Creosote Rings
- . Upper Johnson Valley Yucca Rings
- . Barstow Woolly Sunflower (formerly North Harper Dry Lake)

3. FY 83 Targets

Emphasis will be placed on measures to protect areas where ACEC plans have been completed.

Two additional ACEC plans will be completed this year which are concerned with protection of vegetation.

- . Amargosa River
- . Grimshaw Lake

B. VEGETATION ELEMENT

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

The majority of actions specified in connection with the Vegetation Element will focus upon monitoring and supplemental inventory. Monitoring efforts will be directed to those areas with the greatest management need. Criteria include the presence of vegetation of a species of high value or sensitivity and the type and intensity of impact. Also, actions that modify vegetation structure or composition will be monitored. These actions include, but are not limited to, grazing leases, fire suppressive events and open areas, the construction of utility corridors, and mining or mineral development.

Statistical inventory requirements have been identified. The need for vegetation inventories in determining forest availability for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses and burros is obvious. Inventory efforts are also necessary to determine the distribution and status of rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animal plant associations.

Five AECs have been designated that are partially or entirely based on vegetation resource values. In addition, one Research Natural Area (Western Mojave Saltmarsh) is planned.

There is a need for an analysis -- of an area by area basis -- to determine the number of plants and/or parts which may be harvested in a given area without deleterious effects on the species and resources in question.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

The following completed AEC plans include vegetative resource objectives:

- Fort Springs
- Salt Creek Hills
- Yuma Basin
- Surprise Canyon
- Bureau Valley Dunes

The following AEC plans have been prepared specifically to protect vegetation:

- Rocky Dry Lake Fremont River
- Upper Johnson Valley Yuma River
- Barstow Valley San Joaquin (formerly North Harbor Dry Lake)

3. FY 83 Targets

Efforts will be placed on measures to protect areas where AEC plans have been completed.

Two additional AEC plans will be completed this year which are concerned with protection of vegetation.

- Anapaya River
- Orderville Lake

E. WILDERNESS ELEMENT

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

The Desert Plan recommends all or parts of 45 areas as preliminarily suitable for wilderness, encompassing approximately 2.1 million acres of public land. Wilderness study reports will be prepared for all 148 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the CDD, whether the Desert Plan or other studies recommend them as suitable or unsuitable.

Until Congress decides which WSAs will become wilderness, all WSAs will be managed so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for consideration as wilderness. During the period preceding Congressional action, while interim management is in effect, resource condition site surveys and environmental assessments of actions proposed within WSAs will be conducted to assure compliance with the Interim Management Policy and multiple-use class guidelines.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

- Non-suitable Wilderness Areas - completed report for all 91 wholly unsuitable WSAs in CDCA (June 1981)
- CDCA Suitable Wilderness Reports - a total of 12 reports have been completed.

3. FY-83 Targets

- Suitable Wilderness Reports - prepare to complete 20 reports within CDCA.

WILDERNESS ELEMENT

1. Areas Identified in the Plan

The District Plan recommends all or parts of 65 areas as potentially suitable for wilderness, encompassing approximately 2.1 million acres of public land. Wilderness study reports will be prepared for all 146 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the DWS, whether the District Plan or other studies recommend them as suitable or non-suitable.

Best Management Practices which WSAs will become wilderness, all WSAs will be managed so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for consideration as wilderness. During the period preceding Congressional action, while suitable management is in effect, resource conditions will be maintained to ensure consistency of actions proposed within WSAs will be consistent to ensure compliance with the National Management Policy and Antiquities Act (16 U.S.C. 1201).

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

- Non-suitable Wilderness Areas - completed report for all 91 wholly non-suitable WSAs in DWS (June 1981)
- COCA Suitable Wilderness Reports - a total of 12 reports have been completed.

3. FY-83 Targets

- Suitable Wilderness Reports - prepare to complete 30 reports within DWS.

F. WILD HORSE AND BURRO ELEMENT

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

Five Herd Management Area Plans (HMAPs) will be prepared to outline long-term management Herd Management Areas (HMA) where wild horses and burros will be retained on a continuing basis. HMAs were grouped for inclusion under a particular HMAP, based upon their location and/or need for coordination with other agencies. The high priority HMAPs will be prepared and implemented beginning in FY 81 with the proposed population (3028) reached by the end of FY 85. It is estimated that 10,000 burros will need to be removed from the desert by the end of 1985. The medium priority HMAPs would be prepared and put into effect by FY 82 with proposed population levels reached by the end of FY 85. Low priority HMAPs will be prepared and put into effect by FY 83 with reduction to proposed population level reached in that same year.

As a part of the development of individual Herd Management Area Plans, a monitoring system will be designed to evaluate the effectiveness of management techniques in meeting the objectives of the HMAP. The monitoring studies will also be used to design and evaluate schemes of selective animal removal. As a minimum, the following monitoring studies will be used:

- Population estimates will be developed once each year (beginning the first year following HMAP preparation) to monitor progress in obtaining proposed population levels within the target dates.
- Sample composition counts (youth/adult ratios) will be conducted on ten percent of the population annually to estimate reproductive capacity of wild horse and burro populations.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

Due to other priorities and reduced funding, no herd management plans have been completed. The emphasis during the past two years has been placed on burro removal. During this period about 5000 burros have been removed from the CDCA. This includes a substantial reduction of animals on the Naval Weapons Test Station at China Lake.

3. FY 83 Targets

It is anticipated that 1200 burros will be removed from the CDCA in FY 83. Three Herd Management Area Plans (HMAP) will be prepared for the: Saline/Panamint Valley, East Mojave and Colorado River areas. This will leave two areas, Chicago Valley and Low Desert to be completed in FY 84.

1. Factors Identified in the Plan

Five Bird Management Area Plans (BMAPs) will be prepared to outline long-term management Bird Management Areas (BMA) where wild birds and birds will be retained on a continuing basis. BMAPs were prepared for inclusion under a partitioned plan, based upon specific location and/or need for coordination with other agencies. The high priority BMAPs will be prepared and implemented beginning in FY 81 with the proposed population (3028) reached by the end of FY 85. It is estimated that 10,000 birds will need to be removed from the system by the end of 1985. The medium priority BMAPs would be prepared and put into effect by FY 85 with proposed population levels reached by the end of FY 85. Low priority BMAPs will be prepared and put into effect by FY 83 with retention to proposed population level reached in that same year.

As a part of the development of individual Bird Management Area Plans, a monitoring system will be designed to evaluate the effectiveness of management techniques in meeting the objectives of the BMAP. The monitoring studies will also be used to design and evaluate systems of selective animal removal. As a minimum, the following monitoring studies will be used:

- Population estimates will be developed over each year (beginning the first year following BMAP preparation) to monitor progress in obtaining proposed population levels within the target dates.

- Sample composition counts (yearly/semi-annual) will be conducted on ten percent of the population annually to estimate reproductive capacity of wild birds and birds populations.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

Due to other priorities and reduced funding, no bird management plans have been completed. The system during the past two years has been placed on hold. During this period about 500 birds have been removed from the BMA. This includes a substantial reduction of animals on the level system last Section at this time.

3. FY 83 Targets

It is anticipated that 1500 birds will be removed from the BMA in FY 83. Three Bird Management Area Plans (BMAPs) will be prepared for the Salinas, Fresno Valley, San Joaquin and Colusa River areas. This will leave two areas, Fresno Valley and Los Banos to be completed in FY 84.

G. LIVESTOCK ELEMENT

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

- Rangeland Program Summary Document will be written spelling out proposed actions on livestock grazing. (This has now been written).
- Decision documents will be written and delivered to allotment operators of each allotment within first year of plan implementation. This includes a reduction of current livestock perennial authorization from 99,362 AUMs to 74,707 AUMs.
- Consultation with all allotment operators to decrease grazing decisions will occur.
- Ephemeral livestock authorization determined annually.
- Develop, in consultation with livestock operators, allotment management plans on all existing and proposed grazing allotments within CDCA (60 Allotment Management Plans).
- Range improvements will be established in conjunction with the AMPs to promote more efficient use of livestock forage and promote improvement of range condition on perennial allotment.
- Adjust in season of use on 21 allotment in order to improve range utilization and condition.
- Seven new allotments and eight new allotment extensions after AMPs are written will be established.
- Establishment of vegetation utilization, trend, and condition monitoring systems.
- Reduction of livestock and wildlife conflicts through special management.

LIVESTOCK ELEMENT

Issues Identified in the Plan

- Regional Program Summary Document will be written spelling out proposed actions on livestock grazing. (This has now been written)
- Decision documents will be written and delivered to allotment operators of each allotment within first year of plan implementation. This includes a revision of current livestock permit/allowance from 98,352 AUMs to 74,707 AUMs.
- Consultation with all allotment operators to determine grazing decisions will occur.
- National livestock authorization determined annually.
- Develop, in consultation with livestock operators, allotment management plans on all existing and proposed grazing allotments within DRA (see Allotment Management Plans).
- Range improvements will be established in conjunction with the RMP to promote more efficient use of livestock forage and promote improvement of range condition on perennial allotment.
- Adjust in season use on 21 allotment in order to improve range utilization and condition.
- Review new allotments and rights new allotment extensions after RMPs are written will be established.
- Establishment of vegetation utilization, trends, and condition monitoring systems.
- Reduction of livestock and wildlife conflicts through special management.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

- The initial projects listed above has been completed (i.e., decision documents, consultations, and Rangeland Program Summaries).
- A total of 13 Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) have been completed.

CDD - FY82 Completed AMPs by January 1, 1983

Allotment -	1. Gravel Hills	Barstow Region
	2. Stoddard Mtn.	Barstow Region
	3. Lanfair Valley	East Mojave
	4. Clark Mtn.	East Mojave
	5. Colton Hills	East Mojave
	6. Kessler Springs	East Mojave
	7. Gold Valley	East Mojave
	8. Cantill Common	North Mojave
	9. Olancho Common	North Mojave
	10. Oriflamme	McCain Valley
	11. Vallecito	McCain Valley
	12. Banner Queen	McCain Valley
	13. Cane Brake	McCain Valley

3. FY 83 Targets

- Complete 19 AMPs and initiate implementation of the plans completed. This will include fences and water developments.

CDD FY83 AMPs to be Completed in FY83

Allotment -	1. Afton Canyon	Barstow Region
	2. Cronese Lake	Barstow Region
	3. Tierra Blanca	McCain Valley
	4. In-Ko-Pah	McCain Valley
	5. Mt. Tule	McCain Valley
	6. Hansen Common	Eastern Sierra
	7. Hunter Mountain	North Mojave
	8. Lacey - Cactus - McCloud	North Mojave
	9. Rudnick Common	Eastern Sierra
	10. Walker Pass Common	Eastern Sierra
	11. Darwin	North Mojave
	12. Harper Dry Lake	Barstow Region
	13. Newberry/Ord Mtn.	Barstow Region
	14. San Felipe	McCain Valley
	15. Ford Dry Lake	Colorado Desert
	16. Crescent Peak	East Mojave
	17. Piute Valley	East Mojave
	18. Valley View	East Mojave
	19. Last Chance	North Mojave

- On the ground implementation will be started on 32 AMPs.

5. Actual Accomplishments to Date

- The initial projects listed above have been completed (i.e., decision documents, cost estimates, and management plans).

- A total of 13 Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) have been completed.

CDP - 1985 Completed AMPs by January 1, 1985

1. Gravel Hills	Barrow Region
2. Stordard Mtn.	Barrow Region
3. Lantair Valley	East Nojav
4. Clark Mtn.	East Nojav
5. Golden Hills	East Nojav
6. Easter Springs	East Nojav
7. Gold Valley	East Nojav
8. Cantill Canyon	North Nojav
9. Diamond Canyon	North Nojav
10. Orillians	North Nojav
11. Vailants	North Nojav
12. Banner Green	North Nojav
13. Carr Green	North Nojav

6. FT 83 Targets

- Complete 12 AMPs and initiate implementation of the plans completed. This will include fences and water developments.

CDP 1985 AMPs to be Completed in 1985

1. Afton Canyon	Barrow Region
2. Crowned Lake	Barrow Region
3. Tawna Plains	North Nojav
4. In-A-Bah	North Nojav
5. Mt. Taba	North Nojav
6. Hansen Canyon	North Nojav
7. Hunter Mountain	North Nojav
8. Lacey - Cactus - McCloud	North Nojav
9. Rithick Canyon	North Nojav
10. White Pass Canyon	North Nojav
11. Durbin	North Nojav
12. Hunter Dry Lake	Barrow Region
13. Henderson Dry Lake	Barrow Region
14. San Felipe	North Nojav
15. Ford Dry Lake	North Nojav
16. Crescent Pass	North Nojav
17. Ridge Valley	North Nojav
18. Valley View	North Nojav
19. Last Chance	North Nojav

- On the ground implementation will be started on 12 AMPs.

H. MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS AND RECREATION ELEMENTS

1. Actions Proposed in the Plan

The implementation of the Recreation Element involves a number of specific activities.

Site-specific planning and management activity occur first within areas containing sensitive and/or unique resources. WSAs and Multiple-use Class C will receive priority attention as suitability determinations are finalized.

The major thrust of the motorized vehicle access element will be the designation of routes of travel within the Class L areas.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

- The recreation program has concentrated on the management of organized events, activity plans and the vehicle route designation process. Other ongoing activities carried out by recreation planners, visitor service specialists, and desert rangers include presentations to groups and the preparation of interpretive materials for the public. It should be noted that 42,000 public contacts were made in the field by rangers during FY 82.
- The route designation process has been interrupted by court action instituted by the California Native Plant Society et al., which resulted in an injunction against the use of route designation criteria outlined in the Desert Plan. Due to court delays, only three draft Interim Access Guides were completed.

The Motorized Vehicle Element is in the process of amendment which will include deletion of the criteria in the plan which was ordered by the court.

- Funds earmarked for construction of the Yuha Way Station were redirected to the purchase of four mobile (trailers) visitor stations. When fully equipped, these trailers will be deployed at strategic locations in the CDCA during weekends to provide information to recreationists.

3. FY 83 Targets

- Prepare and publish interpretive materials for dissemination to the public (e.g., maps, guides and brochures) utilizing data collected during preparation of the Desert Plan.
- Continue inventory and designation of routes of travel. The most critical areas will be given priority.
- Complete recreation activity plan and ACEC plan for Soda Springs (Zzyzx).
- Complete an activity plan (ACEC) for the Rand Mountains area.
- Begin implementation of the East Mojave Scenic Area including route designation and signs.

II. MOTORIST VEHICLE ACCESS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

1. Actions Proposed in the Plan

The implementation of the Recreation Element involves a number of specific activities.

Site-specific planning and management activities occur first within areas containing the sensitive and/or unique resources. Maps and site-specific Class C will receive priority attention as site-specific determinations are finalized.

The major thrust of the motorist vehicle access element will be the designation of routes of travel within the Class I areas.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

- The recreation program has concentrated on the management of organized events, activity plans and the vehicle route designation process. Other ongoing activities carried out by recreation planners, visitor service specialists, and board members include presentation to groups and the preparation of interpretive materials for the public. It should be noted that 45,000 public contacts were made in the field by rangers during FY 82.

- The route designation process has been interrupted by court action instituted by the California Native Plant Society et al., which resulted in an injunction against the use of route designation criteria outlined in the Desert Plan. Due to court delays, only three draft motorist access routes were completed.

The Motorist Vehicle Element is in the process of amendment which will include deletion of the criteria in the plan which was ordered by the court.

- Funds earmarked for construction of the Loop Way Station were redirected to the purchase of four mobile (trailers) visitor stations. When fully equipped, these trailers will be deployed at strategic locations in the GMA during weekends to provide information to recreationalists.

3. FY 83 Targets

- Prepare and publish interpretive materials for disseminated to the public (e.g., maps, guides and brochures) utilizing data collected during preparation of the Desert Plan.

- Continue inventory and designation of routes of travel. The most critical areas will be given priority.

- Complete recreation activity plan and AEC plan for Soda Springs (Exempt).

- Complete an activity plan (AEC) for the Paint Pot area.

- Begin implementation of the East Mojave Scenic Area including route designation and signs.

I. GEOLOGY - ENERGY - MINERALS ELEMENT (GEM)

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

The BLM will respond to requests such as mining plans and mineral lease applications in the shortest possible time. The prompt processing of user requests will require the BLM to work closely with the user to insure that mutually acceptable plans of operations are submitted. The BLM will work toward the elimination of costly delays in possible resource development.

The analysis of 34 GEM Resource Area (GRA) units which were not addressed in the plan are to be completed. All GRA reports will be finalized and published with new maps which show the potential for locatable, saleable, and leasable.

The integration and interpretation of all available data for the purpose of defining mineralization models will be accomplished in the next three years. This integration and interpretation will include the GRA reports on a regional (CDCA) basis. A technical report for the desert-wide GEM resources also will be prepared. These will be packaged on a County basis, with a County overview chapter. The GRAs by county will form a series of volumes for the entire CDCA.

A ground investigation of those areas considered anomalous on the basis of geochemical, geophysical, and/or remote sensing surveys which were performed during the initial CDCA inventory will be conducted to fill in data gaps discovered by the GRA inventory effort.

New data, where and/or when it is considered necessary for the GEM data base, will be generated. The data base for the entire CDCA will be reanalyzed and reinterpreted on a regular basis (at least every five years).

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

- Emphasis has been placed on clearing the backlog of oil and gas and geothermal leases. A total of 825 oil and gas leases and 132 geothermal leases was issued by the District during FY 82.
- Four GEM Resource Areas (GRAs) were completed in FY 82. Reduced funding and emphasis on case work prevented further work on this program.
- A total of 261 mining plans of operation (required by regulation 3802 and 3809) was processed during FY 82.

3. FY 83 Targets

- The District minerals program will continue to emphasize case work and maintain a "zero" backlog on leases and timely processing of mining plans of operations.

1. GEOLGIC - MINERAL ELEMENTS

1.1. Activities Identified in the Plan

The BLM will respond to requests such as mining plans and mineral lease applications in the shortest possible time. The prompt processing of these requests will require the BLM to work closely with the state to insure that mutually acceptable plans of operations are submitted. The BLM will work toward the elimination of costly delays in possible resource development.

The analysis of 3A (GSA Resource Areas) units which were not addressed in the plan are to be completed. All GSA reports will be finalized and published with new maps which show the potential for economic, scientific, and historical.

The investigation and interpretation of all available data for the purpose of developing mineralization models will be accomplished in the next three years. This investigation and interpretation will include the GSA reports on a regional (GSA) basis. A geological report for the desert-wide GSA resources also will be prepared. These will be packaged on a County basis, with a County overview chapter. The GSA by county will form a series of volumes for the entire GSA.

A ground investigation of those areas considered anomalous on the basis of geophysical, geochemical, and/or remote sensing surveys which were performed during the initial GSA inventory will be conducted to fill in data gaps discovered by the GSA inventory effort.

New data, where and/or when it is considered necessary for the BLM data base, will be generated. The data base for the entire GSA will be reevaluated and reclassified on a regular basis (at least every five years).

1.2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

Geophysical has been placed on clearing the backlog of oil and gas and geophysical. A total of 822 oil and gas leases and 12 geophysical leases was issued by the District during FY 82.

Four GSA Resource Areas (GSA) were completed in FY 82. Reduced funding and emphasis on some work prevented further work on this program.

A total of 261 mining claims of operation (regulated by regulation 1802 and 1809) was processed during FY 82.

1.3. FY 83 Targets

The District's mineral program will continue to emphasize case work and mining claims. Backlog of leases and timely processing of mining plans of operations.

J. ENERGY PRODUCTION AND UTILITY ELEMENT

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

- The goal of identifying a network of "joint-use planning corridors" capable of meeting the projected utility services needs to the year 2000 has been met. Sixteen planning corridors have been identified.

The criteria to be utilized when evaluating any future application includes input from the California Energy Commission's current demand forecasts, information offered by the Joint Utility Advisory Committee, and information for various other governmental agencies, as well as the existing utility rights-of-way in the CDCA.

- Nine "contingency corridors" have been identified in Appendix XV of the Plan. A contingency corridor may eventually become a joint-use planning corridor, following the adoption of a Plan amendment. A contingency corridor does not become a planning corridor until a specific project has successfully been processed through the complete State and Federal regulatory and environmental review process.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

- A number of major projects have been approved and are under construction including the Inter-mountain Power Project (IPP) and the Arizona Inter-connection Project Transmission System.
- The EIS for the wind energy projects in Banning Pass has been completed and rights-of-way are currently being issued.

3. FY 83 Targets

- There are no major utility corridor projects proposed for FY 83 with respect to preparation of EISs.
- An environmental document will be prepared for wind energy projects located in the Tehachapi area, in the Barstow-Victorville area, and the Mountain Pass area.
- Amendment No. 1 in the Current Amendment Process proposes to allow new microwave sites within Class L areas provided NEPA requirements are met.

PLANNING PROVISIONS AND UTILITY ELEMENT

Actions Identified in the Plan

The goal of identifying a network of "joint-use planning corridors" appears to be the projected utility service needs to the year 2000 has been met. Sixteen planning corridors have been identified.

The criteria to be utilized when evaluating any future application involves input from the California Energy Commission's current demand forecasts, information offered by the Joint Utility Advisory Committee, and information from various other governmental agencies, as well as the existing utility rights-of-way in the CCA.

While "contingency corridors" have been identified in Appendix IV of the Plan, a contingency corridor may eventually become a joint-use planning corridor, following the adoption of a Plan Amendment. A contingency corridor does not become a planning corridor until a specific project has successfully been processed through the complete State and Federal regulatory and environmental review process.

Actual Accomplishments to Date

A number of major projects have been approved and are under construction including the Fort-Mountain Power Project (LTP) and the Arvin Inter-connection Project Transmission System.

The EIS for the wind energy projects in Banning Pass has been completed and rights-of-way are currently being leased.

FY 83 Targets

There are no major utility corridor projects proposed for FY 83 with respect to preparation of EISs.

In environmental documents will be prepared for wind energy projects located in the Tehachas area, in the Burrell-Victorville area, and the Kern County area.

Exemption No. 1 in the Current Exemption Process proposed to allow new developments within Class I areas provided NEPA requirements are met.

K. LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENT ELEMENT AND REALTY ACTIONS

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

Adjustments to the existing land tenure of the CDCA will enhance the management of natural resources, provide for stable and beneficial patterns of public and private land use, and foster cooperation with other public agencies at all levels of government in the adjacent and interspersed public and private lands.

Scattered parcels, parcels which lack identified boundaries, and those that are not cost-effective to manage will be disposed of (provided no resource value, such as protected plant or animal species, or cultural values, are present). If such resource values are present, the BLM may dispose of the land to the State or another Federal agency that would manage the lands in a manner necessary to protect such resource values.

In-Lieu selection rights of the State of California must be accommodated. The BLM will work with the State to complete the selection, along with access to such lands.

An exchange program, specifically designed to deal with BLM management problems encountered with public land adjacent to Southern Pacific land, will be developed. Exchanges will be considered when they are determined to be mutually beneficial to the BLM and the Southern Pacific Land Company.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

-Due to emphasis on the elimination of casework backlog, there has been no progress on land exchanges with the State or Southern Pacific Land Company.

-Substantial headway has been made in the identification and evaluation of public lands in the Western Counties area (San Diego, Riverside, and Los Angeles) for transfer to the US Forest Service.

-Realty casework includes non-mineral leases, rights-of-way, land sales and special use permits. It also includes special dispensation of public land for recreation and public purposes (R&PP) i.e., land for parks, recreation facilities and other public uses. During FY82 the District reduced casework backlog by completing work on 184 realty cases.

3. FY 83 Targets

-Western Counties area - Transfer lands to U.S. Forest Service which have been identified through negotiations between the two agencies. Other scattered parcels of public land have been identified for sale or transfer to other agencies under the provision of Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP).

Actual Identified in the Plan

Agreement to the existing land tenure of the GDA will enhance the management of natural resources, provide for stable and beneficial patterns of public and private land use, and foster cooperation with other public agencies at all levels of government in the adjacent and integrated public and private lands.

Scattered parcels, parcels which lack identified boundaries, and those that are not otherwise to manage will be disposed of (provided no resource value, such as protected plant or animal resources, or cultural values, are present). If such resources values are present, the BLM may dispose of the land to the State or another Federal agency that would manage the lands in a manner necessary to protect such resource values.

In-line selection rights of the State of California must be recognized. The BLM will work with the State to complete the selection, along with access to such lands.

An exchange program, specifically designed to deal with BLM management problems associated with public land adjacent to Southern Pacific land, will be developed. Exchanges will be considered when they are determined to be mutually beneficial to the BLM and the Southern Pacific Land Company.

Actual Accomplishments to Date

Due to requests on the elimination of easement holding, there has been no progress on land exchanges with the State or Southern Pacific Land Company.

Administrative boundary has been made in the identification and evaluation of public lands in the Western Counties area (San Diego, Riverside, and Los Angeles) for transfer to the U.S. Forest Service.

Other actions include non-physical issues, rights-of-way, land sales and special use permits. It also includes special disposition of public land for recreation and public purposes (BLM), i.e., land for parks, recreation facilities and other public uses. During FY82 the District retained easements needed by completing work on 184 acre cases.

FY 83 Progress

Western Counties area - Transfer lands to U.S. Forest Service which have been identified through negotiations between the two agencies. Other scattered parcels of public land have been identified for sale or transfer to other agencies under the provisions of Recreation and Public Purpose Act (RPPA).

-High priority will be given to the sales of scattered public lands within the CDCA and the Western Counties area. A total of 5386 acres will be sold during FY 83.

-A five year Asset Management Initiative for the sale of public lands within both the CDCA and Western Counties area will be prepared this year. This proposal will identify specific parcels to be sold over the next five years. A total of 201,000 acres are planned for sale in the five year plan. In addition to the 5386 acres planned for sale during 1983, there are 32,000 acres slated for sale in FY 84 and 164,000 acres to be offered in FY 85, FY 86 and FY 87. It should be noted that only lands which are "unclassified" in the 1980 California Desert Plan will be included in the sales program. This is consistent with the intent and objectives of the Land Tenure Adjustment Element of the Desert Plan.

-Statewide programs for exchanges of land with the State of California and the Southern Pacific Land Company are being developed at the BLM State Office level. The CDCA will play a major role in these programs.

-Continued effort will be directed at reducing realty casework backlog.

High priority will be given to the sales of scattered public lands within the CCA and the Western Counties area. A total of 2500 acres will be sold during FY 83.

A five year Asset Management Initiative for the sale of public lands within both the CCA and Western Counties area will be prepared this year. This proposal will identify specific parcels to be sold over the next five years. A total of 201,000 acres are planned for sale in the five year plan. In addition to the 2500 acres planned for sale during 1982, there are 12,000 acres planned for sale in FY 83 and 184,000 acres to be offered in FY 85, FY 86 and FY 87. It should be noted that only lands which are "undisturbed" in the 1980 California Desert Plan will be included in the sales program. This is consistent with the intent and objectives of the Land Tenure Adjustment Element of the Desert Plan.

Scattered programs for exchanges of land with the State of California and the Southern Pacific Land Company are being developed at the WLM State Office level. The CCA will play a major role in these programs.

Continued effort will be directed at reducing heavily wooded backlogs.

L. SOIL/AIR/WATER

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

The Bureau will coordinate with and support local government planning efforts and rule-making procedures relating to air quality. It will also coordinate with Federal agencies in the efforts related to air quality.

The Bureau will develop an air quality monitoring program for the CDCA.

One concern of the BLM is dust generated by vehicles. In planning for and managing open areas and access routes, BLM's soil and air quality scientists will continue field tests to determine when areas generate the minimum amount of dust. These tests include monitoring of actual events and the use of a portable wind tunnel to determine wind erosion potential of various soil types.

Also, the Bureau is working cooperatively with the National Park Service and the Military by establishing visibility monitoring stations in the CDCA.

The soil support program includes soils studies, inventories, and monitoring. Studies proposed include attempting rehabilitation of intensely disturbed soils, making additional investigations of accelerated wind erosion in the CDCA, evaluating longevity of visual soil disturbances, calculating areas of soil disturbed by mining disturbances, measuring longevity of soil compaction on ORV study sites, and doing further evaluation of the applicability of LANDSAT (satellite) spectral data for evaluating desert soil properties.

Water rights compliance includes the acquisition and protection of water rights necessary for fulfilling Bureau management programs. These will be conducted under the substantive requirements of State law, with recognition of Federal water uses and water rights and in accordance with BLM Water Rights Procedures.

Water use and needs inventory requires the collection of adequate information for acquiring water rights and documenting Federal reserved water rights.

Regional water resource inventories call for the collection of data on surface and ground water quantity and quality on a regional basis. The data may be obtained within the framework of the Bureau planning system and utilized for a variety of specific purposes, including background data for site-specific water development, and in environmental impact analyses.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

-An Interagency Committee on Air Quality Monitoring has been established by BLM (California Desert Air Working Group) to develop a desert-wide air quality monitoring plan. The group is actively engaged in developing interagency exchange of information and a system of monitoring stations.

Actions Identified in the Plan

The Bureau will coordinate with and support local government planning efforts and undertake measures relating to air quality. It will also coordinate with Federal agencies in the efforts related to air quality.

The Bureau will develop an air quality monitoring program for the GYA.

The concept of the RIM is that generated by vehicles, in planning for and managing open areas and access routes, RIM's soil and air quality scientists will conduct field tests to determine their status. The status of the soil and air quality scientists will conduct monitoring of actual events and the use of a portable which tested to determine wind erosion potential of various soil types.

Also, the Bureau is working cooperatively with the National Park Service and the Military to establish visibility monitoring stations in the GYA.

The soil support program includes soil erosion, inventories, and monitoring. Studies proposed include extensive rehabilitation of severely disturbed soils, making additional investigations of accelerated wind erosion in the GYA, evaluating integrity of visual soil disturbances, calculating areas of soil disturbed by wind disturbances, assessing integrity of soil composition on RWS study sites, and doing further evaluation of the applicability of LANDSAT (satellite) spectral data for evaluating desert soil properties.

Water rights compliance includes the acquisition and protection of water rights necessary for fulfilling Bureau management programs. These will be conducted under the substantive requirements of State law, with recognition of Federal water laws and water rights and its accordance with RIM Water Rights Procedures.

Water use and needs inventory requires the collection of adequate information for acquiring water rights and assessing Federal reserved water rights.

Regional water resource inventories call for the collection of data on surface and ground water quantity and quality on a regional basis. The data may be obtained within the framework of the Bureau planning system and utilized for a variety of specific purposes, including background data for site-specific water development, and in environmental impact analyses.

Actual Accomplishments to Date

An Interagency Committee on Air Quality Monitoring has been established by RIM (California Desert Air Working Group) to develop a desert-wide air quality monitoring plan. The group is actively engaged in developing interagency exchange of information and a system of monitoring stations.

- The two District visibility monitoring units are being maintained by the Department of Defense. The data from this station will be available to all members of the Air Working Group.
- Ground water investigations are continuing.
- Completed analysis of ORV activity impacts on desert soils. A report has been published.
- Water inventories are being conducted on water sources.
- Several Activity Plans (ACECs) provide for actions to improve water quality and to monitor water quantity and quality.

3. FY 83 Targets

- The District will continue to provide support to the Air Quality Committee.
- Continue investigation and monitoring of ground water in the CDCA.
- Water inventories will be continued.
- Activity plans will be implemented for water quality improvement. Fencing is planned for Saline Marsh and Piute Creek.
- Water monitoring will be continued on several riparian ACECs.

- The two District water quality monitoring units are being replaced by the Department of Defense. The data from this station will be available to all members of the Air Working Group.

- Ground water investigations are continuing.

- Completed analysis of ORV activity impacts on ground water. A report has been published.

- Water investigations are being conducted on water sources.

- General Activity Plans (AGAPs) provide for action to improve water quality and to monitor water quantity and quality.

3. ET 83 Targets

- The District will continue to provide support to the Air Quality Committee.

- Continue investigation and monitoring of ground water in the CEA.

- Water investigations will be continued.

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- Water monitoring will be continued on several riparian AGAPs.

M. INFORMATION SYSTEMS

1. Description of Information

Few resource planning efforts in the United States have been required the amount of data needed in the preparation of the Desert Plan. Existing inventory data range from detailed studies on one wildlife species to national surveys concerning the public's attitudes about the California Desert.

The data now exist in a variety of forms. Maps and overlays display information in geographic terms. Written reports describe contracted and BLM-conducted inventories. A few data bases are retrievable by computer.

It is essential that this mass of data, the most comprehensive collection of data about the California Desert, be readily available to BLM and to the interested public. Many Desert Plan implementation actions will require site-specific resource information. Where that information has been collected during the Desert Plan inventory phase, tax dollars will be saved if the information can be retrieved instead of repeating the inventory.

Eventually, predictive models will be developed which are capable of determining resource values likely to be found within specific areas of the desert. For example, areas of high archaeological potential will be mapped based on a sample field inventory of less than 5% of the desert. Use of predictive models will substantially reduce the cost of resource inventories.

New information will continue to be collected about desert resources. Research by local universities and colleges is currently widespread throughout the California Desert. BLM will cooperate with these efforts, and will particularly encourage research in fields which will enhance proper management of the public lands.

Automatic Data Processing

BLM has an Automatic Data Processing (ADP) Systems located in the Bureaus' Denver Service Center. Existing desert inventory data bases have been transferred to the Denver computer. An ADP Plan, addressing potential uses of the computer in the California Desert District, will also be prepared.

Eventually, ADP will provide higher quality work at much less cost. Data on various resources will be retrievable by any combinations of resource, legal description elevation, habitat type, county, etc.

Desert Resources Library

The Desert Plan calls for the establishment of a desert resources library. This library will be designed to assist BLM personnel in their daily management activities.

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Eventually, ADP will provide higher quality work at much less cost. Data on various resources will be retrievable by any combination of resource, local description elevation, habitat type, canopy, etc.

Desert Resource Library

The Desert Plan calls for the establishment of a desert resource library. This library will be designed to assist BLM personnel in their daily management activities.

Information needed by the Resource Area staffs will be duplicated and maintained both in the Area Office and at the District library.

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

- Librarian has been hired and the general library containing 5000 volumes has been cataloged and shelved during FY 82. In addition, approximately 50% of the special collections materials has been organized for general use. Special collections include: reports, work papers, maps, and field notes: data collected during preparation of the Desert Plan.
- The computer files established by the Desert Plan Staff have been transferred to Denver and placed on the Honeywell system. Programs to access portions of these files have not been developed and the data is not currently being utilized or updated.

3. FY 83 Targets

- Complete organization of the special collection library.
- Contract to catalog and organize hard copy maps and overlays created during preparation of the Desert Plan.
- Initiate development of special programs to make use of resource data bases in the Denver Computer System.

Information needed by the Resource Area staffs will be duplicated and maintained both in the Area Office and at the District Library.

2. Area Accomplishments to Date

- Librarian has been hired and the general library containing 5000 volumes has been cataloged and shelved during FY 82. In addition, approximately 30% of the special collection materials has been organized for general use. Special collections include: reports, work papers, maps, and field notes; data collected during preparation of the Desert Plan.

- The computer files established by the Desert Plan Staff have been transferred to Denver and placed on the Honeywell system. Programs to access portions of these files have not been developed and the data is not currently being utilized or updated.

3. FY 83 Targets

- Complete organization of the special collection library.
- Contract to catalog and organize hard copy maps and overlays needed during preparation of the Desert Plan.
- Initiate development of special programs to make use of resource data bases in the Denver Computer System.

N. MONITORING PROGRAM

1. Actions Identified in the Plan

The Desert Plan requires that a monitoring program designed to measure the effectiveness of the Plan be implemented within two years. This will be accomplished by site and/or resource specific monitoring described below, and by a holistic monitoring program designed to measure the "health of the desert."

Monitoring will employ two perspectives: measurement of impacts and measurement of mitigations. The principal perspective will cover broad areas such as common vegetative types or ecosystems. The focus will be on resources affected by cumulative land-use actions, with analyses for trends. Trend verification could be difficult because of the extreme variability in local annual precipitation and natural biological variations. In most cases, several interrelated resource conditions will be monitored by coordinated data gathering and analysis (e.g., for soil erosion, vegetation, and wildlife populations).

A second monitoring perspective will focus on the measurement of impacts and effectiveness of mitigation of a particular land-use action on the one or more resources potentially affected, e.g., effects of grazing on cultural and wildlife values. Such selected monitoring targets might be limited, but the study effort could be intensive, especially where information is needed for management of sensitive resources (e.g., effects of active, hard rock mining on sensitive environmental zones or off-highway vehicle open play areas occupied by sensitive wildlife species).

2. Actual Accomplishments to Date

- A comprehensive report outlining the monitoring that has been done and what is needed for the future.
- A number of monitoring projects have been established; most are associated with ACECs. Many additional projects have been identified and designed. However, because of reduced staff and funding, many critical monitoring projects have not been initiated, e.g., for livestock grazing and for determining the effectiveness of the Desert Plan.

3. FY 83 Targets

- Identify and establish a limited number of study sites to determine impacts of specific uses. The focus will be on determining the effectiveness of the Desert Plan.
- Prepare some baseline maps of recent land uses and land-use commitments for monitoring and trend studies of ecosystems.
- Our abilities to accomplish the above tasks depend on availability of manpower. Efforts will be made to obtain assistance of volunteers.

MONITORING PROGRAM

Activities Identified in the Plan

The Forest Plan requires that a monitoring program be designed to measure the effectiveness of the plan in the first two years. This will be accomplished by a monitoring program designed to measure the "health of the forest."

Monitoring will employ two perspectives: measurement of impacts and measurement of effectiveness. The principal perspective will cover broad areas such as common vegetation types or ecosystems. The focus will be on resources affected by cumulative land-use actions, with emphasis on forests. Forest vegetation would be difficult because of the extreme variability in local natural processes and natural biological variation. In some cases, several indicators would be monitored by coordinated data gathering and analysis (e.g., for soil erosion, vegetation, and wildlife populations).

A second monitoring perspective will focus on the measurement of impacts and effectiveness of allocation of a particular land-use action on the one or more resources potentially affected, e.g., effects of grazing on cultural and wildlife values. Such selected monitoring targets might be limited, but the study effort would be intensive, especially where information is needed for management of sensitive resources (e.g., effects of active land use on sensitive wilderness areas or off-highway vehicle open area occupied by sensitive wildlife species).

Actual Accomplishments to Date

A comprehensive report outlining the monitoring that has been done and what is needed for the future.

A number of monitoring projects have been established; most are scheduled with ACRS. Many additional projects have been identified and designed. However, because of resource staff and funding, many critical monitoring projects have not been initiated, e.g., for livestock grazing and for deer-antelope herds.

Future Projects

Identify and establish a limited number of study sites to determine impacts of specific uses. The focus will be on determining the effectiveness of the Forest Plan.

Prepare and publish maps of forest land uses and land-use communities for monitoring and trend studies of ecosystems.

Our ability to accomplish the above tasks depends on availability of man-power. Efforts will be made to obtain assistance of volunteers.